



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classifications, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A.

other names/site number Sellwood Community House, Sellwood Community Center

2. Location

street & number 1436 S.E. Spokane Street

not for publication

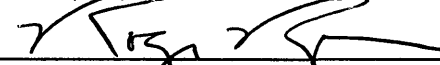
city or town Portland

vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97202

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally.


Signature of certifying official/Title - Deputy SHPO

10.3.06
Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
Action

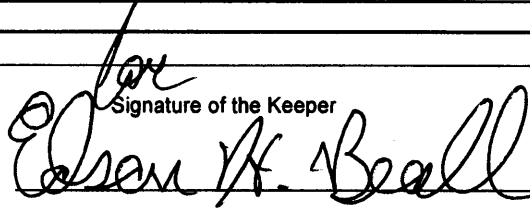
entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):


Signature of the Keeper

11.15.06
Date of

Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A.
Name of Property

Multnomah Co., Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many as apply)

Category of Property
(check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private
- public - local
- public - state
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: institutional housing

SOCIAL: civic

EDUCATION: education-related

RELIGION: church school

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

SOCIAL: civic

EDUCATION: education-related

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: WOOD: weatherboard

roof: ASPHALT

Other:

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

See continuation sheets.

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A., now known as the Sellwood Community Center, is a rectangular, two-and-one-half-story wood-frame building on the corner of a residential street in Sellwood, a working-class neighborhood in southeast Portland, Oregon. Like the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century houses that surround it, the Sellwood Y has wood-frame windows and is sheathed in horizontal weatherboard. Its solid 60x100' size makes it larger than nearby single-family houses but details such as large dormers, low, pitched roof, wide eaves, multi-pane windows and wood construction make it compatible with its neighbors. It is not the only institutional building in the area; within a quarter-mile radius are seven churches, a parochial and a public school. The structure's mass, wide recessed entry with identifying sign, and lack of setback are the features that distinguish it from the surrounding homes.

The front of the building faces north to Spokane Street, a quiet residential street; the east side faces S.E. 15th Avenue; the back faces south onto a modern one-story dental office and a large 1890s house, beyond which is a busy thoroughfare, S.E. Tacoma Street. Along the west side of the Sellwood Y, on an adjacent 50x100' lot is a playground for small children built in 1986. The Sellwood Y is built to the edges of its 50x100' lot on all four sides. In addition, at its southwest corner it extends ten feet onto its second lot, the remainder of which is occupied by the "Tot Lot." The front and east sides of the building are partially obscured by street trees (upright maples), approximately 30' tall, planted in the early 1980s. Since April 1920, when the Sellwood Y was purchased by the city parks department, the 96-year-old structure has received regular maintenance. It needs new exterior paint but is otherwise in sound condition. In spite of its age, very few noticeable exterior or interior alterations have been made. It continues to be used as an indoor recreation facility by the Portland Parks & Recreation Department, as it has for 86 years.

Exterior

From the front, the Sellwood Y.M.C.A. appears square. However, it is a modified "T" shape. On the front it measures 50'. On the east it runs south 59', jogs out 18" and continues 41' to the southeast corner. Across the back (south) the building is 58 1/2' wide. The western side of the building returns north 41', then jogs (east) 8 1/2', and continues 59' to the northwest corner of the structure.

The original use of the building as a Y.M.C.A. determined its interior spatial organization and has created two recognizable divisions. The front section of the building contained administrative and general-purpose rooms on the first floor and fourteen single bedrooms on the second floor. Behind this, a partial parapet rises approximately 10 feet above the front section, marking the beginning of the rear section, which housed the kitchen/pantry, and recreational facilities, including a swimming pool, shower/locker room and on the second floor, a gymnasium. These separate interior functions of the two parts of the building are also reflected in the size and placement of the windows: in the front section, windows over seven feet tall

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serve first-floor rooms with twelve-and-a-half foot ceilings; five-and-a-half-foot-tall windows at the second floor, placed high under the eaves, reflect bedroom ceilings inside that are nine feet high. In the rear section, the windows facing 15th Avenue are narrow, 66" tall, grouped in threes and lights are of maze glass for privacy because they serve the locker and shower room. In the gymnasium above, 1:1 windows are located at the top of the wall and open hopper style, for ventilation. Although the windows reflect separate interior functions, the two building sections are unified horizontally on the exterior with three belt courses and matching siding.

The building sits on an elevated concrete foundation covered on three sides with its original four-inch-wide weatherboard. It is divided horizontally into three sections. The water table begins four inches above the sidewalk. On the east, north and west elevations it begins near the ground with a nine-inch-wide projecting drip mold. The 42" high water table ends at the seven-inch-wide belt course, just under the first floor windows. The building continues twelve feet, ten inches to the final, seven-inch-wide belt course, just under the second floor windows. The south side of the building has just one belt course, beginning 24 inches above ground level. It is unclear if this side of the building had two additional belt courses, as replacement siding now rises uninterrupted the full height of the building. The new boards may be a manufactured wood product, as there is some evidence of fungal growth. Unlike the original siding it has been face nailed and stapled to the building, and although painted, nail heads are beginning to rust. It is not known when this siding was applied.

The Sellwood Y has retained most of its original wood sash windows which are unobstructed by storm windows. The five-bay front of the building has two pairs of seven-and-a-half-foot tall sash windows arranged symmetrically on each side of the front entry door. They are operable, 6:1, with three-pane fixed transoms. On the second story, the windows, although only five feet tall, are also 6:1, arranged in pairs over the first floor windows. They are operable, without transoms. A 6:6, hopper style, single attic dormer is centered over the entry way.

Front Section

The recessed front entry is four steps (24") above the sidewalk. It has a projecting lintel with identifying sign, supported by two simple wooden brackets. The outer door of the vestibule has been removed but the two sidelights are intact. The interior door is not original, but has four rectangular panes and interior push-bar. Its sidelights, with beveled glass, are intact.

On the east and west sides of the front section, the windows are the same as the main facade, but the fenestration differs. On S.E. 15th (east) there are four bays. From the front to the back of the building there are two pairs of windows, then a side entry door, followed by a third pair of windows. The second floor bedroom windows are centered in pairs above the four first-floor bays. The attic dormer is also centered

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above the door, and is identical to that on the main facade. The side entry is a newer, solid fire door, but retains its multi-pane, fixed transom, and narrow cornice supported by two brackets, matching those on the front facade. The back stairs have been removed to accommodate a poured concrete ramp with metal railings (added in 2000).

The west side of the front section is also divided into four bays but window placement varies. From the front (northwest corner) to the back, there is a pair of first-floor windows with a pair of bedroom windows centered above. In the second bay, the first-floor windows are identical, but the second-floor, 6:1 windows are separated by a 24" space. This pattern is repeated in the third bay. In the fourth bay there were two single 6:1 windows, one above the other, on the first floor. The bottom window is for the first-floor bathroom; the one above was for the physical director's office, which was just outside the gymnasium. This window has been removed and the wall is covered with siding. At the second-floor (bedroom) level in this bay there was no window. The attic dormer is above this area and was the window/ventilation for the second-floor bathroom/shower room, located six steps above the second floor. This dormer is intact, with its 6:6 panes, matching the other two.

Rear Section

The recreational part of the building has undergone the most change. On the east (15th Ave.) side of the building the windows are intact. On the first floor they are arranged in three bays, centered in the wall. Each window is 24"x66", with eight lights, although the glass has been painted over. There are two trios of windows, and in the middle bay there are two windows with a 24" space between which accommodates the toilet room wall behind. Above these are the gymnasium windows. They are 24"x54", 1:1, centered over the first floor windows in three trios. They tilt in on chains to provide some ventilation for the gym.

On the south side of the gym there was a single trio of windows, placed in the center of the first-floor wall (swimming pool). A note on the original blueprints states, "these windows shall be same as west elevation." The original windows have been replaced with vinyl, vertical sash, sliding windows with three solid panes of glass. They have their original surrounds and are covered on the exterior with metal security mesh.

On the west side of the rear section, the pattern of the ground-floor windows was identical to those on the east side, two trios of windows with two windows in the center bay separated by a 24" space. When the "Tot Lot" was constructed in 1986 a covered porch was built over the exit door from the swimming-pool room (covered and now used for gymnastics). During remodeling one of the center windows was removed. The trio on the south side of this wall was replaced with vinyl windows identical to those on the south side of the building. On the north side of the wall, the original trio of eight-light casement windows is intact. On the second floor are three trios of original, 1:1 hopper, maze glass windows. The final alteration has taken place on the north facing, 8 1/2' wide extension wall. Above the second belt course, above and to the right

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of the gymnasium fire escape door there was a single window, similar to those on the bedroom window wall. It has been removed and replaced with siding.

Interior

First Floor

The Sellwood Y contains two floors, a mezzanine level, and an attic. Few substantial alterations have been made to the interior of the building. After passing through the vestibule the visitor enters a large, open "living room." On the right hand wall is the wood paneled, brick fireplace. This is still intact, although the opening is boarded up. Until the late 1980s, a large, (30"x50" with 9" frame) oil painting of Mt. Rainier, by well-known regional artist Eliza Barchus hung over the mantle. (After being damaged, it was removed for safety to the Park Bureau's Pittock Mansion. It has been restored and is occasionally on display in the mansion). On the right (south wall), through double doors is a small meeting room. To the left of this was a windowed coatroom, and left of this, at the center of the back wall, the hallway to the recreational part of the building and staircase to the second floor. These are all intact. Originally, the foot of the stairs was concealed by a half-wall with maze glass above. This wall has been removed, although the wood-filled transom is intact. The door to the hall has been removed but the maze glass transom has survived.

In the front, northwest corner of the building is a large meeting room (originally a library) with double swinging doors. The original doors with maze glass panels have been replaced with solid wood doors. At the center left was the open reception desk, and behind, two small rooms; one for the Y.M.C.A. director and one for the secretary. In the far left corner was a separate "boys room." The three spaces are intact. The two partitions which separated the director's and secretary's offices have been removed and it is now a single, open office space. The north and south walls of the interior offices had maze glass partitions with operable windows, so the activities in the library and boys room could be observed from within the office. The windows and maze glass are intact but covered with paper or furniture. In an attempt to reduce noise in the office, the arch above the reception desk has been filled with Plexiglas, braced with wooden dowels. For the same reason sliding glass panels in the desk opening have been added. The boys room is now a classroom for pre-school children. The solid, replacement fire door from the wheelchair ramp enters this room but retains its multi-pane transom. Throughout the first floor the original woodwork, though painted, is intact, including door surrounds, wainscoting and picture rail. Eight original pendant-style light fixtures, with original glass shades, remain in the living room, and some of the Y.M.C.A.-era, Mission-style furniture has survived. The fir floors have been covered with vinyl tile and acoustical tile has been attached to the living room ceiling, but it has not been lowered.

Passing south into the hallway, beyond the coatroom door, is the doorway to the former pantry. This has been modified into a women's restroom. Beyond this is the kitchen. The hallway ends in an informal lounge area with sofa and vending machine. To the center left is a doorway to the former swimming pool. Left of

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this is the entry door to the former locker room/shower room, which is intact. The swimming pool has been floored over and covered with tumbling mats.

Mezzanine Level and Second Floor

The open-string, 180-degree-return stairway retains its original square-post balustrade, handrail and large square newel posts. There are sixteen steps up to the gymnasium, which is on a mezzanine level. The gymnasium is slightly less than regulation size. Floors are wood, walls are painted, and fixtures are utilitarian. Originally a six-foot wide balcony was suspended from the ceiling on the north side of the gym, above the entry door; this has been removed. Back at the stair landing, there is a small room to the right. This was the gym director's office and had an outside window, which has been removed. The room is now used for equipment storage.

Continuing up nine more stairs, one reaches the residential hallway at the second floor. The original fir baseboards, chair rail, picture molding, doors, and window frames are intact at the second floor, although some pieces retain original varnish and some have been painted. Running north from the landing is a double-loaded hallway, with fourteen single-occupancy rooms (seven on each side), each with its original five-panel door. The transom glass has been removed and filled with plywood. At the north end of the hall, to right and left, the hallway divides and jogs into the corner rooms. On the right, left, and center, three groups of single rooms have had interior walls removed to enlarge them into activity rooms. One is used for crafts; one is a dance studio; the third is a yoga/meeting room. They all retain their original windows, hall and closet doors, millwork and radiators. Of the five remaining single rooms, all are intact. One contains two upright pianos and is used for music lessons; one stores large riding toys for the toddler's gym class; the other three are used for material and equipment storage, including some of the original Y.M.C.A. bedroom furniture. Some of the fir floors have been covered with tile, some painted, and some have been refinished.

Returning to the stairwell and climbing nine stairs to the next landing, one arrives at the original five-panel door that led to the gymnasium balcony. It is sealed shut. To the right of this door is the common bathroom for the original fourteen dormitory rooms. Its original transom with maze glass, although painted, is intact. The bathroom has one toilet in its original partition, a replacement sink and counter, but original cement-floor shower room, with fixtures. Old clothes hooks line the wall.

Attic

A final turn up nine steps leads to the attic door. The attic is unfinished, but has high ceilings. The three dormers provide light and ventilation. It is currently used for storage, including some Y.M.C.A.-era furniture: large conference table, roll top desk, curved-glass display case and bureaus.

Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A.
Name of Property

Multnomah Co., Oregon
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing).

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1910-1920

Significant Dates

1910

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B removed from its original location
- C a birthplace or grave
- D a cemetery
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance Within the past 50 years

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

MacNaughton, Ernest Boyd

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite books, articles, and other sources used in preparing the form on one or more continuation sheets) See continuation sheets

- Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) has been requested
 - previously listed in the National Register
 - previously determined eligible by the National Register
 - designated a National Historic Landmark
 - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
 - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

- Primary location of additional data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other

Name of repository: Sellwood Moreland Neighborhood Assn; YMCA of Columbia

Willamette

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) is an organization that represents a cultural response to the Industrial Revolution, an important, mid-nineteenth-century historical trend that forever altered the world's social, economic, and political landscape. The Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A. represents the local manifestation of this cultural response, as articulated at the neighborhood level. Highly intact, the Sellwood branch Y.M.C.A. ("Y") is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as a locally significant example of a typical full-service Y.M.C.A. facility that provided rooms for religious meetings and educational classes, spaces for physical activities, and dormitory rooms for young men who were living away from a sheltered family environment. In 1909, the Y.M.C.A. opened its 200-dormitory-room building in downtown Portland. Within a year, the Sellwood neighborhood, working with one of the architects of the Portland Y building, opened its scaled-down version of the central facility. It was the only branch Y.M.C.A. in Portland to include single-occupancy bedrooms. The downtown Y was demolished in the late 1970s, so the Sellwood Y.M.C.A. is the earliest surviving example of a full-service Y in the Portland metropolitan area.

The Young Men's Christian Association

The Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London, England in 1844, "in response to unhealthy social conditions in the big cities at the end of the Industrial Revolution (roughly 1750 to 1850)." The Y.M.C.A. had a strong religious foundation and its initial activities were Bible study and prayer. By 1851, the first Y.M.C.A. was established in Montreal, Canada, and was soon followed by the first American Y, in Boston. Following the Civil War, the "influential New York Y.M.C.A. adopted a fourfold purpose:...to improve the spiritual, mental, social and physical condition of young men."¹

During that war Y.M.C.A. membership diminished but afterwards expanded rapidly; by 1870 there were 650 Ys in American cities and towns. New buildings were erected with gymnasiums, swimming pools, large auditoriums and residential, dormitory-style rooms. The living accommodations provided housing to young, single men, overseen by a protective, Christian organization. Rental fees helped cover the institution's operating and program expenses. In the 1890s, the overtly religious emphasis of the Y gradually became less important, while its vocational education and physical culture programs became more popular and attracted new members. However, during the Depression membership decreased, and the Y shifted to social welfare assistance and job placement services. During WWII, as it had during the first World War, the Y.M.C.A. provided support to soldiers in the field and during leave including establishing USOs. Y.M.C.A. staff in the U.S. and other countries gave assistance to POWs and displaced persons.

After WWII, Y.M.C.A.s moved into post-war suburbs, building anew and sometimes closing their older, inner-city buildings. During the social and political turmoil of the 1960s and 1970s membership again dropped as the Y struggled to adjust to changing times. In the late 1970s interest in physical health began to increase and more mothers entered the work force on a permanent basis. Consequently, Y.M.C.A.

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programs in family fitness, camping and child-care became popular. Today the Y is the largest non-profit provider of child care in America.

The Y.M.C.A. in Portland²

An unsuccessful attempt was made to organize a Portland Y.M.C.A. as early as February 1859, four days after Oregon gained statehood. Impetus for a Y.M.C.A. in Portland came from E. Norris, a recent transplant from San Francisco. While support was expressed for the religious focus of the Y.M.C.A. and its ability to surround young men with "wholesome influences" those attending the first meeting expressed unfamiliarity with the Y.M.C.A.'s mission. Interest waned and no further organizing work occurred until 1868 when grain broker Edward Quackenbush solicited financial and organizational support from the business and religious communities. Articles of incorporation were filed which categorized it as a "religious society." With encouragement from Portland's Protestant churches and the participation of leading businessmen, the Y.M.C.A. began to grow. Its programs were religious, educational and social. It guided "unchurched" children to nearby Sunday schools, provided Bibles to families who requested them and formed a Benevolent Society to assist in "cases of destitution." It also obtained a downtown meeting room from member and prominent businessman William S. Ladd, who donated space in his new bank building. New services included a reading room with donated newspapers, periodicals and books and a space for a six-part lecture series.

In 1875 the Y.M.C.A. moved into rented rooms downtown and hired their first paid employee to coordinate and schedule programs, including prayer meetings and monthly social gatherings (in 1874 women were accepted into membership). In a pre-Salvation Army era, the Y held Gospel meetings and tried to attract the curious with outdoor song services. These attempts must have been successful, as they moved to larger quarters in 1879, adding reading and reception rooms. In 1884, after focusing on moral and intellectual improvement for sixteen years, a major new program was introduced: "physical culture." Space for this new offering was provided when the Y.M.C.A. relocated to a building with room for a 40x72' gymnasium, with "the finest apparatus," presumably gymnastic exercise equipment. Within a year bathing facilities were added, as well as a Boys Branch and seven new educational classes.

Portland continued to grow during the 1880s. In response to increasing population on the east side of the Willamette River, and neighborhood interest, an East Side YMCA branch opened in 1885 with thirty members, in rented rooms at E. Washington Street and Union Avenue. Amenities were limited to meeting and reading rooms. In 1891 the boards of directors of the West YMCA (downtown) and the East Side branch merged. In 1894 the East Side Y moved into a new, purpose-built structure at S.E. 6th & Salmon streets. The facility apparently did not include space for "physical culture" programs as the surviving records state that in 1895 "members were discussing a need for athletic features." There is no indication that the East Side Y contained any dormitory rooms.

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Although the Y.M.C.A. still had a strong religious and moral focus, it was the services to youth, educational classes and physical culture programs that increased attendance and membership. Lectures now extended to medical and scientific themes; a "Chatauqua, Literary and Scientific Circle" was formed, as well as an Outing Club for hikes and camping, and a Y.M.C.A. orchestra. Growth was not confined to Portland; in 1885 a Pacific Northwest Y.M.C.A. connected organizations in Victoria, British Columbia, Seattle and Tacoma, Washington, Portland, and eight other Oregon towns. Y.M.C.A.s were also established on college campuses.

In 1896, the Y's local board of directors decided it was time to move Portland's main branch Y from rented quarters downtown into a structure of its own. A fund-raising campaign floundered until recruitment of a trained, experienced Y.M.C.A. Secretary (director) from Iowa. Under the energetic leadership and management of Harry W. Stone, who remained until 1933, the Portland Y.M.C.A. reached the apex of its expansion and influence in Portland's cultural life. Fortunately Mr. Stone's arrival coincided with the nation's slow emergence from an economic recession that had begun earlier in the decade. After successfully eliminating debt, he began raising money for the new building. The East Side Y housed the staff of the main branch Y while their new building was under construction in downtown Portland, and in 1898 the association's first purpose-built Y.M.C.A. opened. Upon completion, the east- and west-side Ys merged permanently and the East Side branch was discontinued, and the building eventually demolished. However, the new building was soon inadequate and in 1902 this two-story structure was demolished and a new, four-story building constructed. Included were a swimming pool and street-level retail shops to generate rental income. A portion of the new building was set aside for a "Boy's Department."

By this time, Portland was entering a period of unprecedented economic expansion and growth that peaked around 1912. Once again the downtown Y.M.C.A. was pressed for adequate space. In 1906 the Young Women's Christian Association (Y.W.C.A.) and the Y.M.C.A. began a joint fund raising effort to build a totally new facility that would serve both sexes (sharing separate wings of a common structure). By April 1907, funds were in hand and work commenced. The architectural firm of MacNaughton, Raymond & Lawrence, designed the building.³ When it opened on December 13, 1909, the new, eight-story, red-brick building provided an 800-person auditorium, two gymnasiums, classrooms, a swimming pool and 200 residential rooms. According to institutional records, the Y.W.C.A.'s share was 3/10ths of the structure, while the Y.M.C.A. used 7/10ths of the building. The administration of the two Ys were separate, however, as were their respective sections of the building. In December 1958, a new, purpose-built Y.W.C.A. was dedicated at S.W. 10th & Main streets in downtown Portland, with its own gymnasium, pool, chapel, meeting and classrooms, and forty dormitory rooms.

The Sellwood Story

Oregon Trail pioneers settled in the late 1840s the unnamed area that came to be known as Sellwood. Located on the east side of the Willamette River, three miles upstream from downtown Portland, it was primarily an agricultural community until 1882, when, after purchasing 321 acres, the Sellwood Real Estate

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Company began clearing and subdividing the property into 50x100' residential lots. By 1887, Sellwood had grown enough that residents needed a governing body, and they subsequently elected a town council, incorporating two years later. In that same year the first Portland bridge to span the Willamette River opened, linking the west and east sides of the city. Downtown streetcar lines began extending to the east side and real estate development followed rapidly. By 1890 with its population estimated at 800, Sellwood had its first public school, a few stores and churches.

In 1893, Sellwood's connection to downtown Portland tightened when a streetcar line was completed down S.E. 13th Avenue, just two blocks west of the future Y.M.C.A. Streets were still unpaved and sidewalks were planks, but anticipation of reliable, regular transportation created a population boom. In 1893 there were an estimated 1800 people in Sellwood; by 1908 this had surged to 6,000. Although Sellwood's business community welcomed the growth, residents were not sure they wanted to become part of the city of Portland. However, in early 1893, Sellwood was annexed against its will.⁴ As new residents of the city, Sellwood residents realized they had to compete with other neighborhoods for amenities, such as paved streets and sidewalks, public parks and professional fire fighters. In 1906, a neighborhood newspaper, the *Sellwood Bee* was established. Articles from this time period have a community "booster" emphasis, the editor exhorting residents to attend meetings, organize and push for their rightful share of improvements.⁵

The Sellwood Y

In the autumn of 1908, as the downtown Y.M.C.A. began construction of their third building, a group of Sellwood boys met in their branch library to discuss how they could organize a "Boys Athletic Club." Public schools at the time did not have gymnasiums, but basketball, which had been accommodated in the downtown Y since the late 1890s, was becoming "a craze."⁶ Colleges and churches had formed leagues and there were regularly-scheduled games at the Y.M.C.A. Although the downtown Y was open to all, it required a streetcar ride, the cost of which, in addition to dues, put membership in a luxury category for most Sellwood families, where fathers worked in the lumber or woolen mill, tannery, streetcar barns or small, local businesses. It was suggested at the meeting that a gymnasium could be obtained by building a branch Y.M.C.A. in Sellwood and adult leadership soon developed to support the proposal.

Heading the list was the local Presbyterian minister, the Rev. D.A. Thompson, who had arrived in 1903 as a graduate of the Princeton Seminary. His eight years in Sellwood coincided with the community's "boom years" of economic and cultural development. A dynamic individual, he increased his church's membership from 40 to 216, but did not confine his community involvement to the pulpit. He had helped organize the Sellwood branch library (the first branch library in Portland), as well as a reading group. Rev. Thompson was also elected to the local businessmen's association, whose members were constantly lobbying City Council members for local improvements.⁷

Following the boys' discussion, a public meeting was held at the Bank of Sellwood to gauge support for a Y.M.C.A. The community was already familiar with the Y.M.C.A., as outreach workers from the downtown

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Y had visited Sellwood as early as 1883, organizing Bible study classes and a Sunday school before there were any churches in the newly-named community.⁸ Enthusiasm generated at this meeting resulted in the formation of a fund-raising scheme led by businessmen and a coalition of Sellwood ministers. Professional staff from the downtown Y, including Harry Stone, offered advice and encouragement. Groups of local men divided up the community and solicited door-to-door pledges. Like participants in a religious revival meeting, canvassing teams met nightly in a tent to evaluate their efforts. In two weeks, \$12,000 had been pledged.⁹ The drive concluded on November 13, 1909, and within a month the *Sellwood Bee* announced that a local committee was reviewing plans for the new Sellwood Y.M.C.A. with local resident (and one of the architects of the downtown Y) E.B. MacNaughton.¹⁰ Plans for the Sellwood branch Y were modeled on the bigger downtown Portland Y and included gymnasium, swimming pool and fourteen dormitory rooms. In March, drawings were put out for construction bids on a two-story, brick building. However, the lowest proposal was still \$4,000 higher than the amount of money pledged by the community. Plans were scaled back: proposed Palladian windows were simplified, weatherboard replaced the brick and skylights were eliminated.¹¹

Excavation began in late April 1910 and by December 9, opening events were scheduled. Unfortunately residents were unwilling or unable to fulfill their pledges and when the Sellwood Y.M.C.A. opened, it had an \$8,000, 8% mortgage, the responsibility of four local churches. Nevertheless, when the doors opened to the public, the new building was crowded with proud Sellwood residents. After speeches, a collection was taken up to purchase office and bedroom furniture for the empty rooms.¹²

Financing the Sellwood Branch

Initially there were at least two fulltime employees at the building; one to oversee the popular physical programs, and a Secretary who performed administrative tasks, organized prayer and Bible study groups, sold memberships and presumably, acted as desk clerk. Operating funds were to be generated through membership fees (\$8/yr for adults; \$5/children), dormitory room rentals (\$5/month) and ongoing fundraising efforts. The Sellwood Y.M.C.A. fell short in all three categories. The swimming tank and gymnasium were busy during the winter (and open to women and girls, albeit at separate times), but attendance dropped as soon as the weather improved in early spring. Consequently the Y found it difficult to sell memberships for children who used the facility only six months per year. Rates were lowered, but matters did not improve. Nor were the fourteen bedrooms rented consistently (one *Bee* article mentioned Y.M.C.A. employees and family members living in the rooms). There were already many boarding houses in Sellwood that provided room and board, and the Y.M.C.A. did not provide meals. And although a Women's Auxiliary was soon organized which consistently raised at least \$400/year, this was short of the \$1,000 required. Community leadership also changed, including the departure of Rev. Thompson in 1911. While local residents were proud of "their" Y.M.C.A., they could not sustain its operation.

Although the Sellwood Y.M.C.A. was an independent operation, the downtown Y did provide some subsidization through loans and assisting with interest payments on the mortgage. However, in early

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August 1912, the *Bee* announced that the Y was closed until fall, or later, "due to a lack of support in Sellwood." The paper urged residents to purchase memberships and the Women's Auxiliary began a determined regime of fund-raising events to cover the necessary \$800. On New Year's Day, 1913, the building did reopen. However, managers began a policy of closing the pool, gym and organized sports activities from April until early October, when children were back in school.¹³ By reducing staff and through seasonal closures, the Sellwood Y.M.C.A. managed to struggle along for three more years. By 1915 the building was open only for meetings and social events.¹⁴

Portland Parks and the Sellwood Y

While the Sellwood Y.M.C.A. faltered, it faced competition from a new entity. As the city expanded in the first decade of the twentieth century, city officials scrambled to acquire and set aside publicly owned land for future parks. The first neighborhood to obtain a public swimming pool (outdoor) was Sellwood, in 1911, and many of the children using that pool had taken lessons during the winter months at the Y.M.C.A. By 1912 the new Park Department was offering free, supervised summer recreational programs in some of their parks, including Sellwood Park, just eight blocks west of the Y.M.C.A. In 1913 the city opened its first purpose-built community center, in North Portland's Peninsula Park.¹⁵ Sellwood residents, never shy about "boosting," requested a community center, complete with library, in their park. However, the neighborhood already had a public park with outdoor swimming pool and understandably it was not at the top of the Park Department's list for additional projects.

In December 1916, after lobbying from Sellwood residents, the Park Department agreed to lease the Y.M.C.A. for one year, reinstating the recreational programs.¹⁶ Residents loved their Y, which had become the social center of the community. It was used for banquets, parties, receptions, lectures and musical entertainments by a wide variety of groups, including local churches. A *Bee* article of April 1918 described it as "a little town." But it is doubtful if any of these users made a donation or paid a fee. While management of the Y by the Park Department insured its continued use, it did not mean that mortgage payments were being made.¹⁷ The city paid for utilities and staff, but appears not to have paid rent.

Sellwood Community House

After two years of use by the city, the *Bee* began speculating that the Park Department might purchase the building, transforming the Y into a community center. The Park Department preferred a new facility in Sellwood Park, but this was unlikely, as construction funds had been reduced. In late 1918, Sellwood citizens began urging the city council to purchase the Y.M.C.A. They also requested that the building be expanded to the west by forty feet to enlarge the gymnasium and swimming pool.¹⁸ After a year of pressure, discussion and compromise, the city council agreed in early 1920 to purchase the Y.M.C.A.¹⁹ Because the park department regularly closed its recreation buildings when school was out and moved employees to the public parks, the pattern established by the Y.M.C.A. was familiar to residents. They were pleased with the solution, as they were now able to use the Y.M.C.A. at public expense. By April 1920, the

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city owned the property and has been operating programs continuously, for eighty-five years.

Conclusion

In 1926, the downtown Y.M.C.A. opened a branch in Portland's Hollywood neighborhood, at N.E. 38th and Broadway Streets. The building included meeting rooms, a gymnasium with full running track and indoor swimming pool, but no dormitory rooms. This branch continued to serve as a branch Y.M.C.A. until 2005, when it was closed because the Y could not afford the estimated \$7 million to upgrade the facility. The building was sold to a private party and is currently functioning as the nonprofit Northeast Community Center.

The Y.M.C.A. opened a branch in North Portland's St. Johns neighborhood in 1933, at 8010 N. Charleston Street. In 1938 another branch opened in the Lents neighborhood in southeast Portland, at S.E. 56th & Foster Road. Both of these small facilities had meeting and clubrooms, but no athletic facilities or dormitory rooms. Both buildings remain extant; the St. Johns facility is no longer a branch Y.M.C.A. and the Lents building is used for Y.M.C.A. childcare programs.

The Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A. is a highly intact example of an early branch of the Y.M.C.A. in Portland, an organization important for its response to social change in America and abroad. Physically reflective of the fundamental tenants of the Y.M.C.A., the Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A. was the only branch Y to contain dormitory rooms, one of the essential characteristics of the organization's purpose to provide safe housing for single men and women. With the demolition of all three of Portland's main-branch Ys, and the loss of the 1885 East Side branch Y, the Sellwood Branch Y is the earliest remaining Y.M.C.A. building in Portland. For these reasons, the Sellwood Branch Y is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the Y.M.C.A. under the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Social History.

Endnotes

¹ "A Brief History of the Y.M.C.A. Movement," (on line), accessed 15 January, 2004. Available from <http://www.Y.M.C.A.net/about/cont/history.htm>.

² Most of the information in "Y.M.C.A. Portland" was compiled from a series of typewritten summaries of Portland's Y.M.C.A. history. These summaries (no author, date and usually no title) are in uncatalogued files at the offices of the Columbia Willamette Y.M.C.A. in Portland, Oregon. Staff permitted copying of relevant documents and these copies are on file in the history collection of the Sellwood Moreland Improvement League (SMILE), 8210 S.E. 13th Ave., Portland, Oregon. Reference to these materials is given as: "Y.M.C.A.-Col.Wm."

³ "Forty Years of the Young Mens Christian Association of Portland, Oregon, 1868-1909." Y.M.C.A. Col.Wm.

⁴ Gail E.H. and D. Michael Hatch, *The Development of Sellwood-Moreland*. History Context Statement of the Sellwood-Moreland Neighborhood, Portland, Oregon." Report to the Sellwood Moreland Improvement League (SMILE), May, 1999 (photocopy), p49-50.

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⁵ Portland (Oregon) *Sellwood Bee*, 7 November, 1908, p1. "Our own charming little suburb should be just as enterprising and thrifty as St. Johns, and its natural attractions and location easily make it the easiest territory to exploit of the two towns. All that is necessary for us to do is to get up the necessary steam and push the meritorious attractions of our town to the front..."

⁶ "Outline of Portland Y.M.C.A. History and Development for Twenty-Five Years from March 1, 1896 to March 1, 1921." p 2. Y.M.C.A. Col.Wm. "After erection of the building in 1898...the Association took on new life and activities of all kinds developed. The most notable feature during these days was the large development of physical work. Basket ball was almost a craze."

⁷ *Sellwood Bee* 8 February 1935 p3 c3 obituary. Rev. Thompson may have been active in the Y.M.C.A. prior to his arrival in Sellwood. He was assigned as Secretary to the American Expeditionary Forces in Bordeaux, France during WWI.

⁸ Two page summary of Sellwood Y.M.C.A. history, Y.M.C.A. Col.Wm.

⁹ *Sellwood Bee* 30 October, 1909, p1; 6 November, 1909; 13 November, 1909.

¹⁰ *Sellwood Bee* 18 December, 1909. "The executive committee of the Sellwood branch Y.M.C.A. met on Saturday evening to look over plans for a building submitted by Architect E.B. MacNaughton."

Sellwood Bee, 15 January, 1910, p8. "The detailed plans, drawn by Architect MacNaughton were highly satisfactory." According to Richard F. Ritz, MacNaughton, a native of Cambridge, Massachusetts, graduated from MIT in 1902, arriving in Portland in 1903. In 1906 he formed a partnership with engineer Herbert Raymond. In 1907 Ellis F. Lawrence, also an MIT graduate, entered the firm. He left in February, 1910. MacNaughton, who lived on Sellwood Boulevard until 1922, became more involved in banking and business ventures and ceased practicing architecture in 1920. Richard F. Ritz, *Architects in Oregon*, (Portland, Oregon, Lair Hill Publishing, 2002), p 242, 265-266. MacNaughton was also a member of the board of the Portland Y.M.C.A. for many years, being elected in 1912.

¹¹ *Sellwood Bee*, 23 September, 1910 p1.

MacNaughton & Raymond, *Y.M.C.A. Building at Sellwood*, blueprints, 27 December, 1909, revised 3/14 & 5/14, 1910.
MacNaughton & Raymond, *Y.M.C.A. Building at Sellwood*, blueprints, n/d. City of Portland Archives & Records Center.

¹² *Sellwood Bee*, 9 December, 1910. "Everyone Will Be Welcomed at Opening. It is the privilege and should be the pleasure of every citizen of Sellwood to be present...at the opening. But it will also be the duty of every citizen to support the work when established." The *Sellwood Bee* 16 December 1910, stated that the actual cost of the building was \$14,031 and that \$2,658 was yet to be paid but that "the Association had an unsold lot on Umatilla Street." The *Bee* either was unaware of or chose to ignore that the downtown Y.M.C.A. had loaned the Sellwood branch \$8,000 to cover the cost of construction. At the opening \$2,134 was raised for furnishings.

¹³ *Sellwood Bee*, 2 April, 1915.

¹⁴ *Sellwood Bee*, 20 August, 1915. "The Y.M.C.A. is open for social, religious and business activities only. If feasible later on, athletic and swimming classes will be organized."

¹⁵ The Peninsula Park Community Center was designed by Ellis Lawrence, who in February, 1910 left MacNaughton, Raymond & Lawrence to open his own practice.

¹⁶ Portland, Oregon Superintendent of Parks to H.W. Stone, Secretary, Y.M.C.A., 7 December, 1916. "The Park Bureau...wishes to use the building of the Sellwood Y.M.C.A. for the period of one year as a community center." City of Portland Archives & Records Center.

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¹⁷ It is not clear who was responsible for repaying the building loan, perhaps a consortium of four local Protestant churches. Portland Oregon Y.M.C.A. to Board members, Sellwood Y.M.C.A., 4 October, 1916, Y.M.C.A. Col.Wm.

"Dear Friends,

...the City of Portland is to take over the Sellwood building for operation as a Community Center. We understand that you are to care for the note at the bank and that the Central Building (downtown Y.M.C.A.) is to care for the interest on the mortgage loan."

Catherine Sohm, SMILE to the *Oregonian*, 29 August, 1990.

"I was not able to determine how long the Y.M.C.A. branch operated, but I did find in the minutes of the Trustees of Moreland Presbyterian Church in April 1920 the following: "Mr. McCullogh presented a document in regards to the disposal of the Community House, formerly Y.M.C.A., to the City of Portland to be used as a public Community Building. The Board according to the terms of the deed was called upon to act on the Church's equity in the property, which was a 1/4 interest. The Methodist, Baptist and Episcopal churches holding the other three quarters. It was provided that if the building be not used for Y.M.C.A. purposes for a period of ten years that it should revert to the four churches above named."

¹⁸ *Sellwood Bee*, 1 August, 1919, p1.

¹⁹ *Oregon Journal*, 11 March, 1920, p20. "Y.M.C.A. To Be Sold."
Sellwood Bee, 16 April, 1920, p1.

Deed from Y.M.C.A. to City of Portland, 21 April, 1910, \$8,000. City of Portland Archives & Records Center.

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Hatch, Gail E.H. and D. Michael. "The Development of Sellwood-Moreland." Historic Context Statement of the Sellwood-Moreland Neighborhood, Portland, Oregon. Report to the Sellwood-Moreland Improvement League (SMILE), May, 1999 (photocopy).

Johansen, Dorothy O. and Charles M. Gates. *Empire of the Columbia: A History of the Pacific Northwest*, 2nd ed. New York, Evanston and London: Harper & Row Publishers, 1967.

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Ritz, Richard F. *Architects of Oregon*. Portland: Lair Hill Publishing, 2002.

Manuscripts/Typescripts

Most of the information in the "YMCA Portland" section was compiled from a series of typewritten and mimeographed summaries of Portland's YMCA history. These summaries (no author, date) are in uncatalogued files at the offices of the Columbia Willamette YMCA in Portland, Oregon. Reference to these materials is listed as "YMCA-Col.Wm."

"Forty Years of the Young Mens Christian Association of Portland, Oregon, 1868-1909." (YMCA Col. Wm.)

"Outline of Portland Y.M.C.A. History and Development for Twenty-Five Years from March 1, 1896 to March 1, 1921." (YMCA Col. Wm.)

Two page summary of Sellwood YMCA History (YMCA Col. Wm.).

Correspondence

Portland, Oregon YMCA, "To Board Members, Sellwood YMCA," 4 October, 1916, YMCA Col. Wm.

Portland, Oregon, Superintendent of Parks, "To H.W. Stone, Secretary, YMCA," 7 December, 1916. Sellwood Community Center Files, City of Portland Archives & Records Center.

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Catherine Sohm, Secretary, SMILE, "To *The Oregonian*, 29 August, 1990. Records, Sellwood Moreland Improvement League, Portland, Oregon.

Blueprints

MacNaughton & Raymond, YMCA Building at Sellwood, 27 December, 1909, revised 3/14 and 5/14, 1910. City of Portland Archives & Records Center.

Macnaughton & Raymond, YMCA Building at Sellwood, blueprints, n/d. City of Portland Archives & Records Center.

Electronic Source

"A Brief History of the YMCA Movement," (on line), accessed 15 January, 2004. Available from <http://www.ymca.net/about/cont/history.htm>.

Newspapers

Sellwood Bee (Portland)

7 November, 1908 p 1.
30 October, 1909 p1
6 November, 1909
13 November, 1909
18 December, 1909
15 January, 1910 p8
23 September, 1910 p1
9 December, 1910
16 December, 1910
2 April, 1915
20 August, 1915
1 August, 1919 p1
16 April, 1920 p1
8 February, 1935 p3

"YMCA To Be Sold," Oregon Journal, (Portland) 11 March, 1920, p.20.

"New S.E. "Y "Opens," *The Oregonian*, (Portland) 7 February, 1938, p.12.

"Downtown YMCA For Sale," *Oregon Journal*, 21 July, 1976, p. 5.

"Interior Remodel of St. Johns "Y", *The Oregonian*, 11 January, 1979, p. B2.

Julia O'Malley, "Northeast Center Stretching to Fill Gap," *The Oregonian*, 24 June, 2005 , Metro, p. 52.

Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A.
Name of Property

Multnomah Co., Oregon
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 527354 5034429
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____

4 _____

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eileen G. Fitzsimons

organization Sellwood Moreland Improvement League date January 25, 2006, March 2006
(rev) _____

street & number 8210 SE 13th Avenue telephone 503-234-4589

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97202

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation sheets

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Portland Parks and Recreation, c/o Robin Grimwade

street & number 1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 1302 telephone 503-823-5116

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97205

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A.
Name of Property

Multnomah, Oregon
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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National Park Service

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

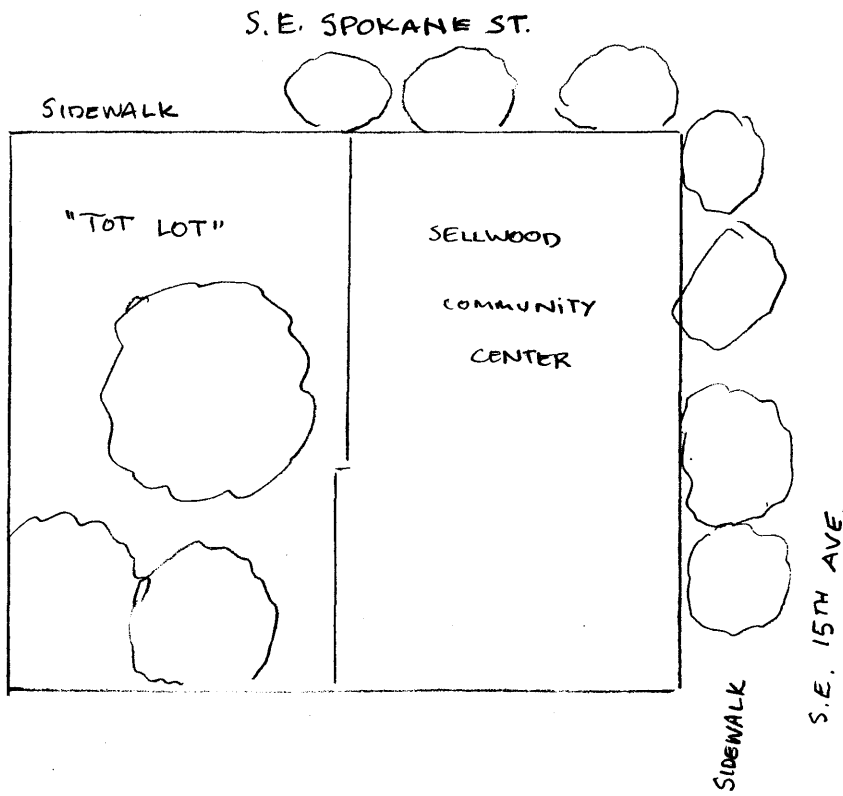
The nominated area is located in the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Township One South, Range One East, Willamette Meridian. It is described as Sellwood Lot 1 and 2, Block 55.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated parcel includes those tax lots historically associated with the Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A. during its period of significance.

SITE PLAN MAP

N >

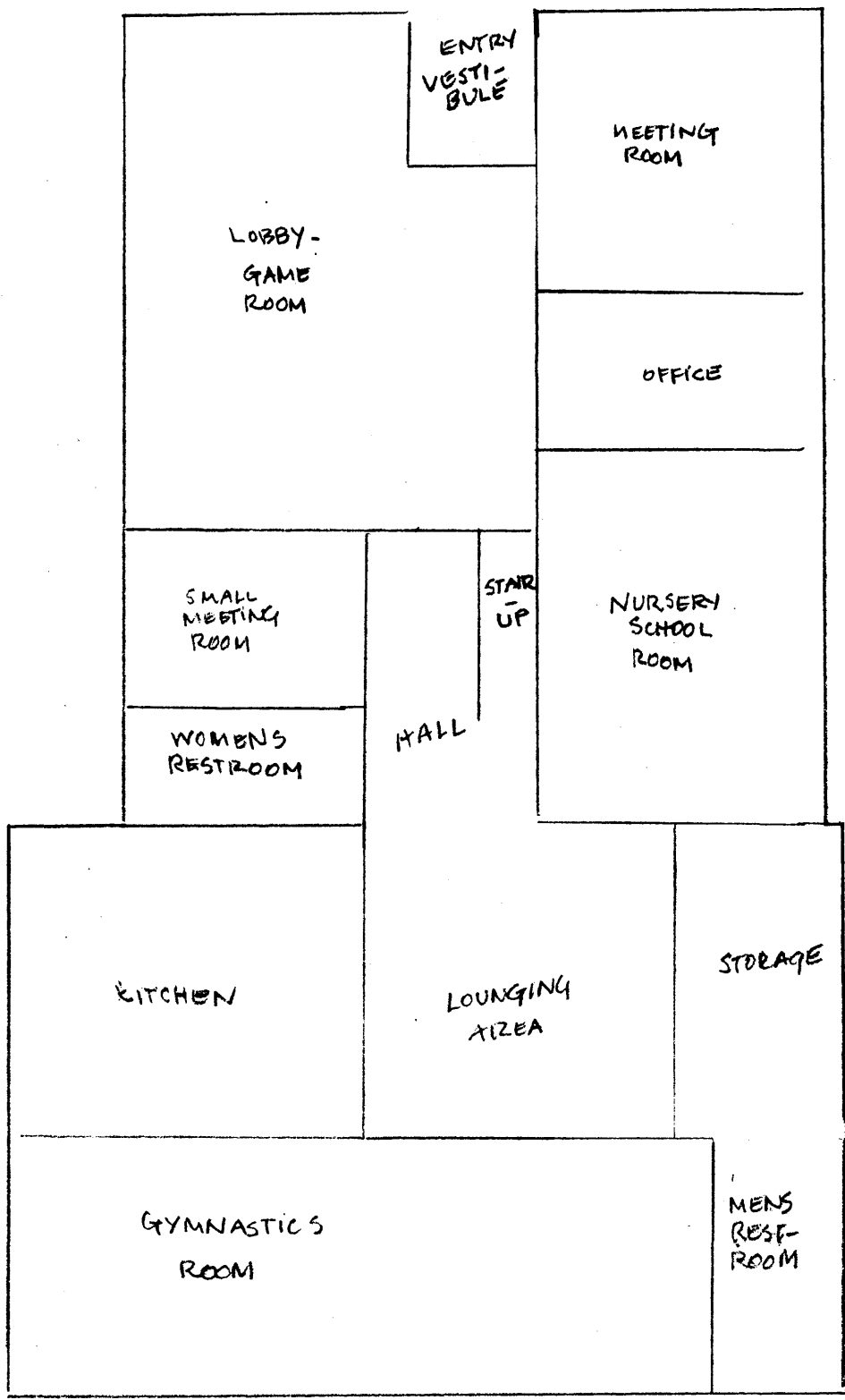


SELLWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
FIRST FLOOR

S.E. SPOKANE STREET

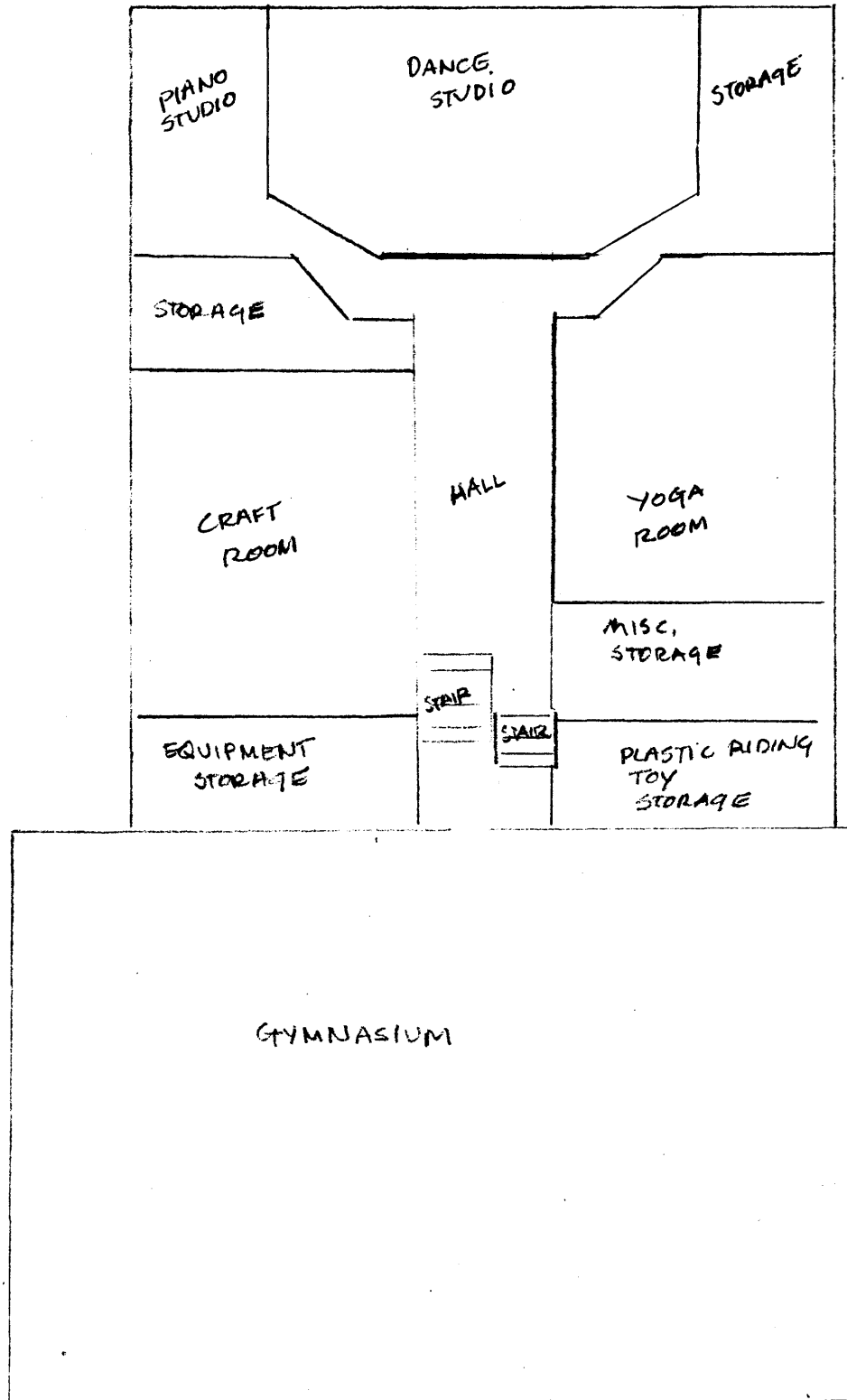


S.E. 15th AVE.



SELLWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER
SECOND FLOOR
^
N

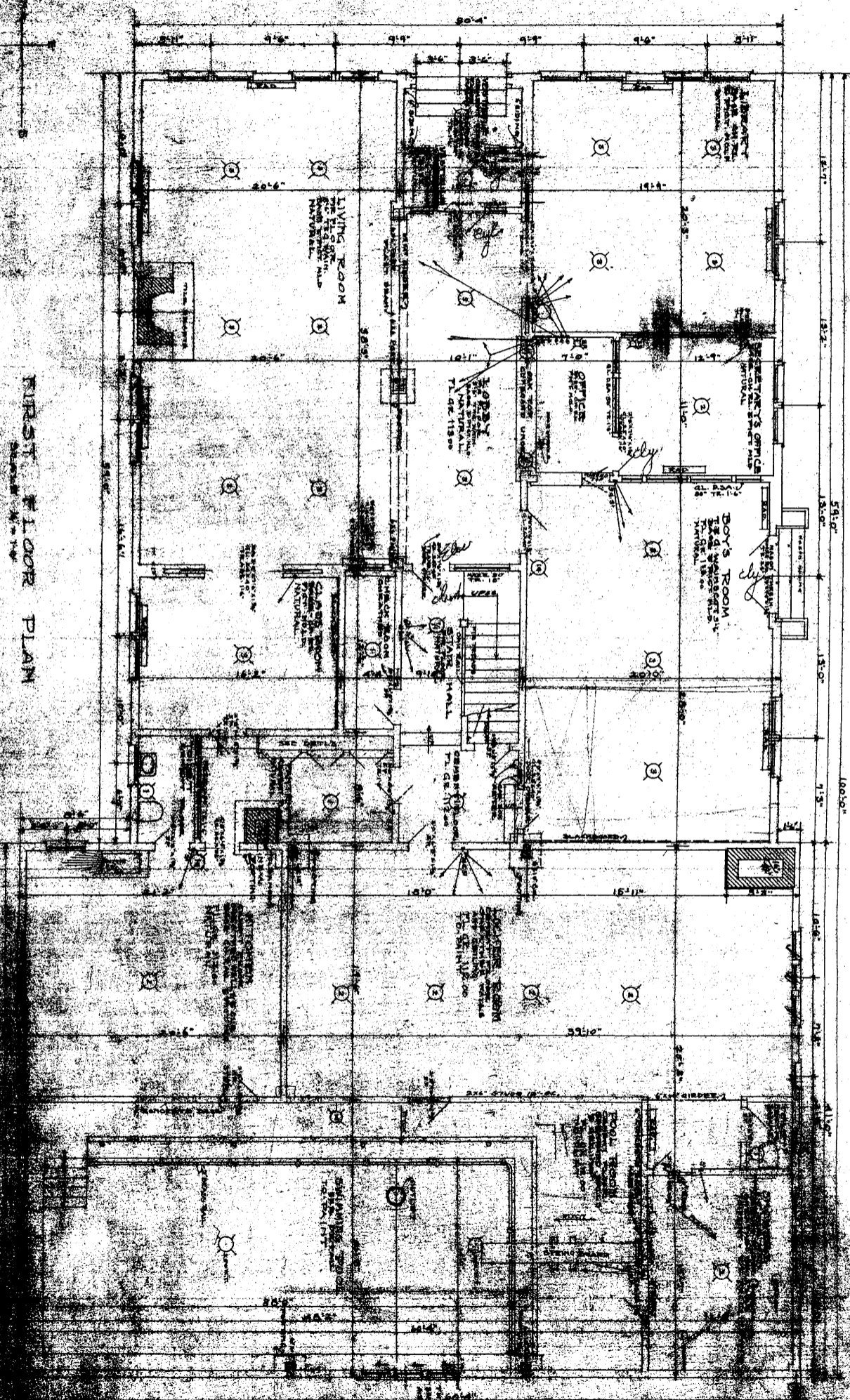
S. E. SPOKANE STREET



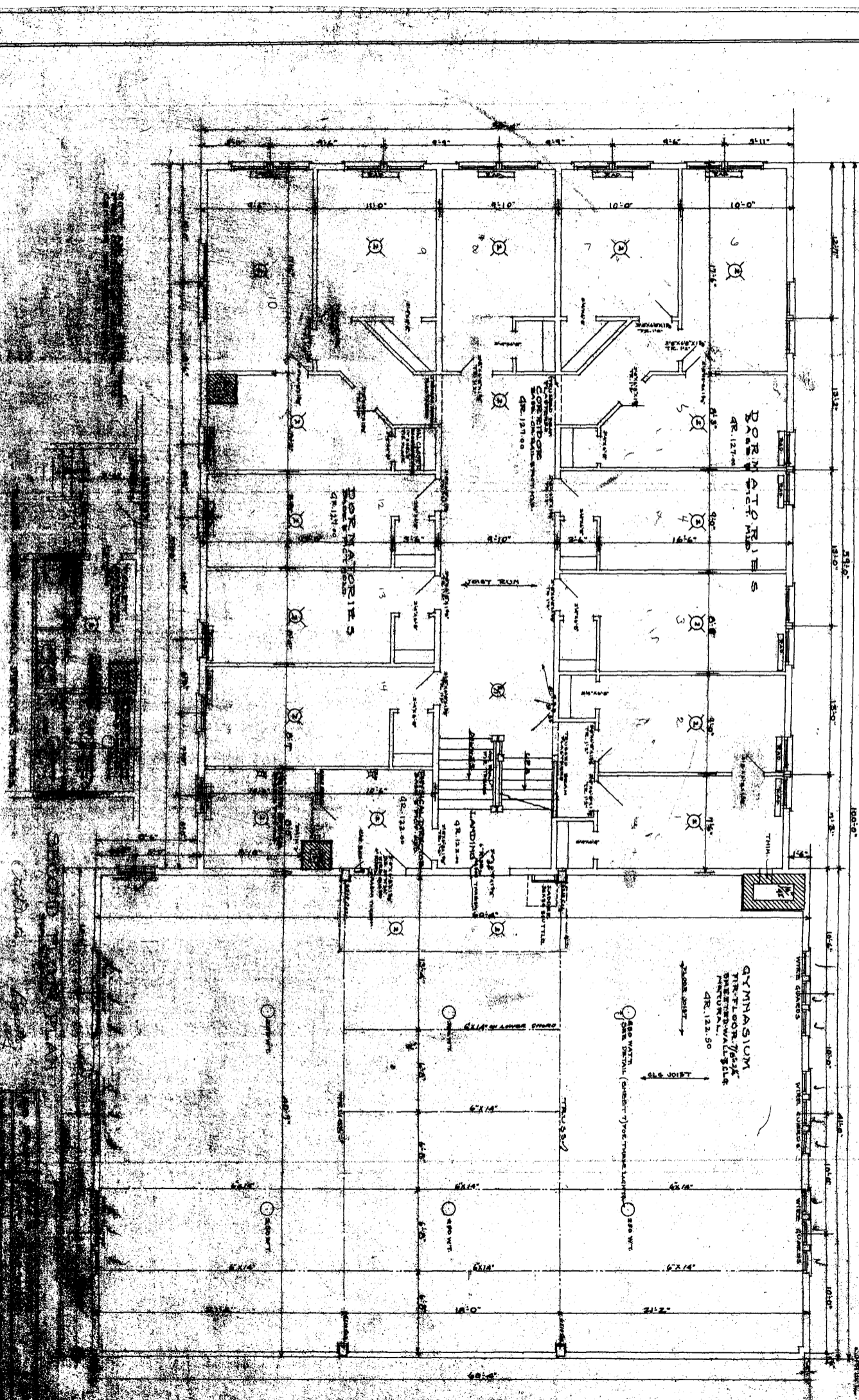
SPOKANE AVE.

E. FIFTEENTH ST.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



JOHN H. ...



JOB NO. 200
SHEET NO. 1

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Photograph List

Historical Photographs

1. Oregon Journal newspaper, 1920. Oregon Historical Society neg. #CN014834. Corner of S.E. 15th Avenue and Spokane Street, looking southwest.
2. A.M. Prentiss, Oregon Commercial Studio, c. 1920. Sellwood Moreland Improvement League Collection: West façade of Sellwood Y, looking east on Spokane Street.

Sellwood Moreland Improvement League Collection, Charles Ruppert, photographer:

3. Lobby interior, Sellwood YMCA, looking southeast, c. 1912.
4. Check in counter, lobby, YMCA, looking southeast, c. 1912.
5. Director's office behind check in counter, YMCA, looking south, c. 1912.
6. Lobby of YMCA at Christmas, looking north, c. 1912.

Photographs, #7-32, Eileen G. Fitzsimons, photographer, October 2005. Negatives located in Sellwood Moreland Improvement League Collection:

7. Corner of S.E. 15th & Spokane St., looking southwest.
8. Front entry of Sellwood Y, looking south.
9. Side entry, S.E. 15th Ave., looking west.
10. West side, looking south.
11. West side, kitchen windows, looking east.
12. South side, looking northwest.
13. Lobby, check in desk, looking southeast.
14. Main entry door, vestibule, looking north.
15. Main reception room fireplace, looking west.
16. Main reception room, looking south. Doors to small meeting room, paper covering maze glass of former coat room window.
17. Main reception room, looking south.
18. Former library, northeast corner of first floor, looking south. Original maze glass windows (secretary's office was beyond).
19. Side entry door from S.E. 15th Ave., looking east. "Windows" are paper. Original transom.
20. Swimming pool room, now gymnastics room, looking west.
21. First floor stairwell, looking northeast.
22. Second floor landing, and hallway, looking northeast, back toward stairwell. Original five-panel bedroom doors.
23. Second floor, gymnasium, looking west. Corner door is exit to fire escape.

Sellwood Branch Y.M.C.A.
Name of Property

Multnomah, Oregon
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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24. Second floor, craft room, looking west. One of the three room "suites" created from three single bedrooms. Board across lower window is safety feature.
25. Second floor, looking east. Typical single bedroom with original YMCA chest of drawers.
26. Second floor gallery level, looking west. Original YMCA shower room.
27. West side of building, looking east. Porch addition, 1986, replacement windows.
28. South side, looking northwest, from S.E. Tacoma St. & S.E. 15th Ave.
29. East side, looking north along S.E. 15th Ave. Spire of St. Agatha Catholic Church in distance (context).
30. Intersection of S.E. Spokane St. & S.E. 15th Ave., looking northeast (context).
31. Intersection of S.E. Tacoma St. & S.E. 13th Ave., Sellwood, looking northwest. Typical commercial area, two blocks west of Sellwood Y (context).
32. S.E. 13th Ave., Sellwood, at intersection with S.E. Spokane St. (context).